

Message Text

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71

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 INSE-00 VO-03 AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 SNM-02 PPT-02 SCA-01 DEAE-00

RSR-01 /156 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:CPTORREY:MRG

X-22415 7/24/73

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

INS:R.STEWART

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P 242302Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

REF: MEXICO 5428

1. ADVANCE COPY OF MEXICAN EMBASSY NOTE DATED JULY 13 RECEIVED BY ACTION OFFICE IN DEPARTMENT AFTERNOON OF JULY 23. MEXICAN NOTE ATTEMPTS TO RELATE RABASA/RUSH JULY 13 CONVERSATION ON ALLEGED US PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A FENCE ALONG BORDER TO THE JULY 14 NY TIMES ARTICLE ON ELECTRONIC DETECTION DEVICES USED BY INS. TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S REPLY NOTE WILL BE SENT SEPTTEL.
 2. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT A PRESS RELEASE IN MEXICO MAY BE HELPFUL IN COUNTERING NEGATIVE PUBLICITY THERE CONCERNING US BORDER SURVEILLANCE, PARTICULARLY THE EXISTENCE OF FENCES AND USE OF ELECTRONIC SENSING DEVICES.
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THE TONE OF THE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTED PRESS RELEASE CON-

TAINED REFTEL IS EXCELLENT. HOWEVER, IN CLEARING RELEASE WITH INS A FEW MINOR INACCURACIES WERE NOTED. THERE ARE ALSO A FEW OTHER RECOMMENDED CHANGES. IT IS THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE ENTIRE PARAGRAPH 5 (C) OF REFTEL:

QUOTE: SINCE BEFORE 1960, THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

HAS MAINTAINED SHORT STRETCHES OF WIRE FENCES ALONG THE BORDER, MAINLY IN URBAN AREAS. AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE ARE SHORT FENCES AT ELEVEN DIFFERENT POINTS BETWEEN EL PASO, TEXAS AND THE PACIFIC COAST. IN NEARLY 2,000 MILES OF COMMON BORDER THERE ARE A TOTAL OF ONLY 26.9 MILES OF FENCES, THE LONGEST OF THESE BEING 6.1 MILES AT EL PASO. THE NEWS ARTICLE ALLEGING THAT THE UNITED STATES PLANNED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FENCE ALONG THE ENTIRE BORDER GREW OUT OF A MISINTERPRETATION OF AN ITEM WHICH HAS APPEARED IN THE INS APPROPRIATION BILL EVERY YEAR SINCE ABOUT 1960. THIS ITEM REFERS TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SHORT ENFORCEMENT FENCE. NO FUNDS WERE REQUESTED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS SHORT FENCE AND NONE HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATED. THE GOM HAS BEEN ASSURED BY THE USG THAT THE LATTER HAS NEITHER THE INTENTION NOR THE DESIRE TO SEPARATE OUR COUNTRIES BY A FENCE. END QUOTE

3. THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO MEXICO'S 3948 OF JULY 20, 1970, CONCERNING NOVEDADES REPORTING ON THE US USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES, AND TO THE DEPARTMENT'S 116862 OF JULY 21, 1970 CONTAINING PRESS GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. EMBASSY CAN DRAW ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE SUGGESTED PRESS RELEASE, AS AMENDED, AND THE DEPARTMENT'S REPLY NOTE TO THE MEXICAN EMBASSY IN DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT WITH RABASA. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO REQUEST MORE DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING ELECTRONIC SENSING FROM INS, IF NECESSARY. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT TECHNICAL DETAILS OF EQUIPMENT USED AND PRECISE POINTS OF ITS PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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POSED INSTALLATION SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO SATISFY ISSUE AT HAND. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: worrelsw
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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